

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03608 030442Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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R 021407Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8389
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DA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3608

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MASS, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAITI INTEREST IN US ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS

REF: (A) KUWAIT 426 (B) STATE 27910

1. DURING MY JUNE 27 CALL ON KUWAITI CHIEF OF STAFF, MAJOR GENERAL MUBARAK (SEPTTEL), HE RAISED WITH ME THE CONTINUING INTEREST OF THE GOK IN THE VULCAN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN. (THERE ARE ALSO INDICATIONS HERE THAT THE GOK MAY BE INTERESTED IN EMERSON'S EMERAD-30 ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN AS AN ALTERNATIVE.) HE WONDERED WHY THERE HAD BEEN NO RESPONSE TO THE KUWAITI REQUEST FOR PRICE AND AVAILABILITY DATA ON VULCAN. I REPLIED THAT I WOULD QUERY THE DEPARTMENT AGAIN AND RESPOND TO HIM.

2. I RECOMMENDED TO DEPARTMENT LAST JANUARY THAT A GOK REQUEST TO PURCHASE THE VULCAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM BE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE AND THAT PRICE AND AVAILABILITY DATA BE PROVIDED. MY RATIONALE WAS, I BELIEVE, SET OUT IN REF A; IT REMAINS VALID TODAY, EVEN IN LIGHT OF OUR MODIFIED ARMS SALES POLICY. IT ALSO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03608 030442Z

APPLIES TO THE EMERAD-30 SYSTEM, WHICH HAS ROUGHLY THE SAME CAPABILITY. IF AND WHEN A SIMILAR REQUEST IS RECEIVED REGARDING THE EMERSON GUN I WOULD SUPPORT IT AS WELL.

3. IF THE DEPARTMENT NEEDS FURTHER
INFORMATION BEYOND THAT PROVIDED IN REF A ON

THIS KUWAITI INTEREST, ON THE DETAILS OF INTENDED INTEGRATION OF AN AIR-DEFENSE SYSTEM NOW BEING ASSEMBLED IN KUWAIT, OR ON THE POLITICAL OR MILITARY JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH A SALE, PLEASE SO INDICATE. I HOPE THAT NEA AND PM ARE SUFFICIENTLY FAMILIAR WITH THESE MATTERS TO PERMIT A DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO BE MADE ON THIS ELEMENT OF THE KUWAITI AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, AND I REQUEST THAT BOTH GUNS BE REVIEWED IN THE COURSE OF A POLICY DECISION TO APPROVE IN PRINCIPLE THE SALE OF ONE OR THE OTHER TO KUWAIT.

4. SEVERAL EMERSON SALES REPS ARE CURRENTLY IN KUWAIT HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH KUWAIT AIR DEFENSE FORCE PERSONNEL ON THE EMERAD-30 AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. BASED ON THE DISCUSSIONS THUS FAR, THE EMERSON SYSTEM APPEARS TO BE A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR A STATIONARY AIR DEFENSE GUN SYSTEM TO PROTECT KUWAITI AIRFIELDS AND THE NAVAL BASE -- AT LEAST IN THEORY. ONE OF THE MOST APPEALING ASPECTS OF THE SYSTEM IS THAT IT IS AUTOMATED AND THEREFORE REQUIRES A MINIMUM OF PERSONNEL -- A COMMODITY IN SHORT SUPPLY HERE -- TO OPERATE. EMERSON CLAIMS THAT LESS THAN 200 PERSONNEL ARE REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN ON A 24 HOURS BASIS A SYSTEM CONSISTING OF APPROX. 100 GUNS. TO OPERATE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 03608 030442Z

A LIKE NUMBER OF VULCANS WOULD REQUIRE AT LEAST 4-5 TIMES AS MANY PERSONNEL. WE ESTIMATE DISCUSSIONS ON THE EMERAD-30 SYSTEM WILL CONTINUE, AND THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ADVISED OF THE KUWAITI ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS SYSTEM AS IT DEVELOPS. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT EMERSON WAS MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS RECENTLY AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING THE DETAILS OF SUCH MEETINGS.
MAESTRONE

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